

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 PRS-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-05 SCCT-01 /064 W

----- 130420

O P 111215Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8586

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 2021

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC (SMUTS, BARBARA)(SMITH, KENNETH STEPHEN)
(HUNTER, CARRIE JANE)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS

REF: A) DAR ES SALAAM 2006; B) STATE 135460; C) STATE 234365

1. WHAT NYERERE HAS IN MIND, AS WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO SAY SEVERAL TIMES NOW, IS QTE SAFE RELEASE OF STUDENTS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE UNQTE (REF A, PARA 6). WE HAVE SPECULATED ABOUT MOTIVES FOR THIS CONCERN -- BUT IN FINAL ANALYSIS I REALLY DON'T CARE WHAT THE RATIONALE IS FOR THE RELEASE, AS LONG AS THE STUDENTS ARE FREED UNHARMED.

2. WE ARE THOROUGHLY AWARE OF THE DIVERGENT VIEWS ON HOW ALL OF THIS SHOULD BE HANDLED (DIVERGENT EVEN AMONG OUR EMBASSIES AND THE DEPT, APPARENTLY), BUT WE SAID FROM THE OUTSET (LEANING ON THE USG HANDBOOK ON TERRORISM) THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY IN CASES OF THIS TYPE RESTS WITH HOST GOVERNMENT -- IN CONSULTATION WITH OURSELVES. TANGOV RESISTED THIS BASIC RESPONSIBILITY AFTER RPT AFTER IT WAS ESTABLISHED THAT THE KIDNAPPERS WERE
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ZAIROIS AND THE VICTIMS HAD BEEN TAKEN TO WEST SIDE OF THE

LAKE, BEYOND TANGOV JURISDICTION.

3. NOW FOR PAST WEEK WE HAVE WITNESSED A RE-EMERGENCE OF TANGOV CONCERN. IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT THIS CONCERN HAD BEEN SUBSTANTIAL, AND COMPLETE COOPERATION HAD BEEN PROVIDED DURING PERIOD OF SEARCH FOR THE STUDENTS. UPWARDS OF 200 TPDF (TANZANIAN MILITARY) HAD BEEN DEPLOYED, SEARCH AIRCRAFT PROVIDED AND RADIO APPEALS MADE.

4. THE PULLBACK TO INTRANSIGENCE OCCURRED WHEN THE FIRST DEMANDS WERE BROUGHT BACK FROM THE REBELS BY BARBARA SMUTS. TANGOV THEN FOUND ITSELF FACING AN ENTIRELY NEW CHALLENGE FROM WHICH IT WAS NOT PREPARED. THE TANZANIANS HAD NO IDEA THEY WERE GOING TO HAVE THE RANSOM DEMANDS LEVIED ON THEM AND KNEW THEY COULD NOT MEET THESE DEMANDS. TANGOV WAS ALSO TROUBLED BY HOW TO DEAL WITH ZAIRE WITH WHOM ITS RELATIONS HAVE BEEN HISTORICALLY MERCURIAL.

5. SO WE ARE NOT WITNESSING A QUOTE SUDDEN UNQUOTE INTEREST BY TANGOV BUT AN INTEREST THAT ABATED FOR A SHORT PERIOD, BUT IS NOW BACK ON THE FRONT BURNER. HOW WE DEAL WITH THIS RENEWED TANGOV INTEREST, OF COURSE, IS OUR NUMBER ONE PROBLEM. MY VIEW IS THAT THE INTEREST IS GENUINE AND WE ARE OBLIGED, WITH APPROPRIATE SAFEGUARDS, TO PLACE SOME CONFIDENCE IN TANGOV'S INITIATIVES.

6. I WISH TO REASSURE THE DEPT THAT WE CONTINUE TO MAKE ALL THE POINTS CONTAINED IN REFS B AND C.

7. NOW WITH REFERENCE TO REF B, PARA 2, A: WE DO NOT KNOW SPECIFIC CONTENT OF PROPOSED MESSAGE. WE UNDERSTAND ITS TONE TO BE CONCILIATORY AND NYERERE INTENDS SAYING, IF YOU ARE TRULY REVOLUTIONARY, YOU WILL FIRST LET THE CAPTIVES RETURN SAFELY AND THEN WE WILL TALK ABOUT YOUR GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS AS A REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (REF A, PARA 4).

REF B, PARA 2,B: WE DO NOT KNOW TANGOV FALLBACK POSITION. WILL ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN THIS.

REF B, PARA 2,C: WE ASSUME THAT TANGOV TAKING GOZ QUOTE GREEN LIGHT UNQUOTE AS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE OF GOZ COOPERATION TO SECURE CONFIDENTIAL

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FREEDOM OF HOSTAGES AND THAT TWO GOVERNMENTS WILL STAY IN TOUCH. GOZ CONGEN IN KIGOMA COULD NOT BE BETTER PLACED.

REF B, PARA 2,D: NO PUBLIC STATEMENT HAS BEEN MADE TO DATE. WE WOULD HOPE TO BE CONSULTED RE ITS CONTENTS.

8. IDEA OF THIRD PARTY ACCOMPANYING RELEASED PRISONER HAS BEEN DISCUSSED, BUT NYERERE BELIEVES IT TOO HAZARDOUS AT THIS TIME. PREPARED CONSIDER AN INTERMEDIARY LATER AFTER INDICATION PRP

CAN BE QTE TRUSTED UNQTE AND NOT USE OCCASION TO SIMPLY TAKE
ANOTHER HOSTAGE.

9. WE CONCUR IN VALUE OF MAINTAINING VAGNI OPTION.
CARTER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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